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*The Bible Is
God's Book*

FEBRUARY, 1950

THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

Edited by former Roman Catholic Priests

"When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."—Luke xxii:32

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Message OF THE Month

The Power of Protestantism



DANGEROUS FALLACY rapidly gaining credence today is that Protestantism as a force is without positive power and, as a consequence, of little help in the struggle to save our Christian civilization from the threat of atheistic Communism. This opinion is being formed by a false comparison of Protestantism with the external grandeur, the political power and the growing aggressiveness of Roman Catholicism.

The power of Protestantism is of a different order from that of Roman Catholicism, and its effects are felt in a different way. It is primarily a spiritual power that works silently in millions of human hearts. Its results are manifested in the creation and preservation of a great and lasting culture, rather than momentarily seen in mass demonstrations of political power and ritualistic displays. Unlike Roman Catholicism, Protestantism is not an organization with an imposing structure of codified laws and regulations, dictating under pain of sin how its membership must vote and influence public opinion. It is rather a 'movement' of spiritual power that transforms the lives of men and women from within.

It is perhaps unfortunate that we still must call this movement by the name of 'Protestantism,' since this indicates only its original protest against the erroneous teachings and practices of Roman Catholicism. Its positive power lies in its reasserted teachings of Evangelical Christianity, by which the Word of God in the Bible becomes the rule of faith, and all share in the universal priesthood of believers. It was this reasserted Gospel teaching that laid the foundations of our American freedoms—especially the most precious of them all, religious freedom, by which every man has the inalienable right to seek the truth of God and the way of salvation according to the dictates of his conscience. It also contributed largely to the foundation of American democracy, of government determined by the will of the governed. From the open Bible the individual learns of his right of immediate relationship to God, that he is made a child and heir of God and a joint heir with Christ. He cannot then be a slave to other men, either in Church or State.

Protestantism, rather than Roman Catholicism, thus stands as the real bulwark against Communism that would destroy these freedoms that came out of the Reformation. It has the weapon that forged these freedoms in the beginning—the positive power of Evangelical Christianity. And this is the only power in turn that can effectively defend and preserve these freedoms for future generations.



Assumption Will Be Declared

IT IS NOW certain that Pope Pius will proclaim at a solemn ceremony in St. Peter's December 8, 1950, the assumption of the Virgin Mary to heaven as a dogma of the Roman Catholic Church.

As reported by the *New York Times* of last December 12, "The decision, according to prelates, was made by the Pontiff after replies to two questions sent many months ago were received from all Roman Catholic Bishops. The questions were whether the Bishops believed that the body of Mary was reunited to her soul in heaven, and whether they considered it advisable to proclaim that event a dogma.

"All the Bishops, with literally no exceptions, answered affirmatively to the first query while almost complete unanimity was reached on the second, it was reported.

"A papal commission of many Cardinals and expert theologians, entrusted with the task of studying the Bishops' replies to the two queries, was understood to have submitted the report to the Pope recently.

"According to the Catholic doctrine a dogma is divine truth proposed by the Church for the belief of the faithful. Being a defined truth it must be accepted unquestioningly by Catholics as a part of Christian revelation.

"The corporal assumption of Mary to heaven is not at present an article of faith, which means Catholics could abstain from believing it without falling into heresy. There has been, however, so much general agreement within the Catholic Church on its being a truth—although still unproclaimed — that authoritative theologians have warned that manifestations of disbelief would be regarded as of 'insolent temerity.'

Pope Benedict XIV (1747-1748) went a step further and declared the assumption by a 'probable opinion,' the denial of which ought to be considered 'blasphemous and impious.'

The reasons for believing in the assumption, according to the Catholic theologians, is that God would not permit the body of the woman who gave birth to Christ to become a prey to decay just as that of any mortal.

"The proclamation will be made by the Pope *ex cathedra*, that is, when he, by virtue of his supreme apostolic authority, declares what he considers a doctrine concerning faith and morals to be observed by all members of the church. When he speaks *ex cathedra* as leader and teacher of all the faithful, the Pope is infallible, according to Catholic dogma proclaimed in 1870."

Holy Year Badge

PILGRIMS journeying to Rome for the Holy Year will receive an official badge of certification. Along with this badge, which will be part of a 'Pilgrim's Envelope,' the pilgrim will receive a card that, in some countries serves as a passport; a book of explanation about the Holy Year, and a guide to Rome.

For further proof of his travel if the pilgrim visits the Pope, he will receive a silver medal stamped with the profile of Pius XII.

● **IN COMMEMORATION** of the Holy Year, a special series of postage stamps has been issued. The stamps are printed in eight values, each bearing a design related to the Holy Year celebrations.

● **TWO BRONZE** plated doors were hung at the opening made into St. Peter's basilica last Christmas eve, replacing the traditional wooden doors of previous years. These doors will remain open behind the masonry, after the re-walling at the close of the Holy Year, as a reminder of the exact position of the Holy Door.

● **VOLUMINOUS** tips have been offered to Roman Catholics planning to visit Rome during the Holy Year. Some interesting advice was published in the N. Y. 'Daily News' of last November 27 under the dateline of Rome (CPTS). It advised tourists to take with them to Rome: 1) "a lantern or some candles; 2) a few packs of cigarettes; and 3) a small flask of something to drink." The latter two were promised as great expedients through Italian customs inspection.

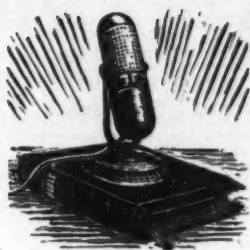
● **TWENTY** canonizations and beatifications are planned during the Holy Year. These will include eleven Italians, five Frenchmen, three Spaniards and one Ecuadorean. The Pope will also offer mass at St. Peter's Basilica once each month during the year, for the benefit of the Holy Year pilgrims.

● **THE FIRST** Holy Year pilgrims who travelled to Rome by foot were two girls from Turin, Italy. According to an ancient tradition, they will be awarded free room and board by the Vatican.

● **REPORTS FROM** Rome, according to the Italian 'Daily American' indicate a wide spread increase in hotel and restaurant prices of between 50% and 100%. One leading hotel man explained this price boost was because most of the "Holy Year guests will be Americans, and Americans are rich."

● **WITH A HAMMER** and trowel given to him by the Italian Catholic Workers' Association, Pope Pius XII opened the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica last Christmas eve. The same implements will be used to close the door at the end of the Holy Year. The tools used by Pope Pius XI in 1925 were pure gold inlaid with precious stones and donated by the Archbishops and Bishops throughout the world.

Are Good Works Necessary?



A VICIOUS ATTACK against Evangelical radio preachers is made in a booklet entitled *Wildcat Operators*, by Father Richard Ginder and published by the Catholic Information Society in New York City. Of these Protestant radio preachers, the author says:

"The fact is that these people are strictly wildcat operators, without competent knowledge and absolutely without authority, equipped only with a glib tongue, a sharp wit, and a certain amount of charm."

The real aim of the booklet, however, is to condemn the true Christian teaching of justification by faith as preached by these Evangelical radio broadcasters. Father Ginder especially ridicules their stress on the Scripture text: "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved*" (Acts 16:31). "Salvation through mere 'belief in the Lord Jesus' is so simple," he says, "that it makes us suspicious from the start. It's a little like the ads that invite us to learn the piano in four lessons. It's too simple to be true." He calls such teaching "the appeal of a madhouse where life is simple and the patients are sim-

ple because they ignore the hard facts of daily life."

There is both a *falsehood* and a *fallacy* in all such attacks by Roman Catholic apologists against the basic Protestant teaching of justification by faith. They falsely assert that Protestants do not believe in the need for good works, and tell their Catholic people that Protestants teach that as long as you have faith you can sin as much as you like. This is an old Catholic calumny against Protestants. It keeps Catholic people ignorant of what Protestants really believe and teach about the proper relation between faith and works—that faith is the cause of salvation, and good works are the effect of being saved; that good works and a holy life are necessary, but follow after salvation, since they never can be the cause of salvation.

The *fallacy* consists in a specious comparison by these Catholic apologists between the works in the natural order of things which we can perform for ourselves, and the work of our salvation which we cannot perform for ourselves, since it is purely a gift of

God. Father Ginder makes this specious comparison as follows:

"It would be folly for a man to sit downstairs and wish through faith, to be wafted by some species of angelic locomotion, up the stairs and into his bed. God gave us our legs to walk with. That's our ordinary means of getting around, and it's only tempting Him to wish or pray for something extraordinary to happen when we have the ordinary means of bringing it about. But these radio talkers make precisely the same mistake."

Now, the "ordinary means" of getting upstairs is by walking upstairs. This is something we can all do for ourselves, because it is in the natural order of things. But we have no "ordinary means" of bringing about the salvation of our souls, since this is beyond our human means and can only be effected by grace through faith. We are assured of this in *Ephesians 2:8,9*:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

This fallacy which places the work of God on a level with the works of men runs through all Roman Catholic reasoning. It accounts for the basic error in the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, that men can take the place of God and accomplish the work that God alone can do. It sustains the power of its priesthood and the exalted position of its popes.

The works of men, according to the Scripture teaching, have no power to save. But good works are the necessary fruit of salvation: *"But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life"* (*Rom. 6:22*).



The Facts About

The U.S.-Vatican Embassy

CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION, has been expressed by almost every Protestant association over the appointment and continuation of a special Presidential representative at the Vatican. Because of poor health, it is expected that Myron C. Taylor will resign that post shortly. The question now is whether President Truman will feel obliged to appoint a successor. Vatican circles are reported to express chagrin over Taylor's departure because now the United States will not be represented by a head of mission with ambassadorial rank.

These circles have made no mystery that they would heartily welcome the appointment of a full Ambassador as representative to the Vatican, but they also said they realized the difficulties of a political nature in the United States which stood in the way of such an appointment.

American history offers no parallel, of which we know, to the abrupt severing of diplomatic relations with the Pope of Rome in 1867. Less than two months after Rev. James Lewis, a Presbyterian missionary from Scotland, then residing in Rome, had been officially notified that he had been placed in "the power of the Inquisition, both

for arrest and imprisonment," the Thirty-Ninth Congress of the United States enacted a law containing the following: "And no money hereby or otherwise appropriated shall be paid for the support of an American legation at Rome from and after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen hundred sixty-seven."¹ The American Legation at Rome went out of the window.

The reasons for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Papal States and the facts that led to the sudden severance of these relations need to be studied.

American consuls had served in Rome from 1797. President James K. Polk, in 1847, on the basis of "our commercial interests," declared in his message to the Congress that it was "highly expedient" for our Government to have a diplomatic representative at the papal court. The Pope then was the temporal sovereign of the Papal States, embracing a considerable part of Italy. Trade with the United States was growing. The first step was the appointment of Jacob L. Martin in 1848 as *chargé d'affaires*.

¹*Congressional Globe*, vol. 78, Appendix, p. 192.

A month later Mr. Martin died and Lewis Cass, Jr. became his successor. His rank was raised in 1854 to that of minister resident. He was followed by John P. Stockton, Rufus King, Alexander W. Randall, Richard M. Blatchford, and Rufus King, who was given his second appointment in 1863.

The instructions given by James Buchanan, then Secretary of State, to Jacob L. Martin, were clear, definite and emphatic: "*There is one consideration which you ought always to keep in view during your intercourse with the papal authorities. Most, if not all the governments which have diplomatic representatives, are connected with the Pope as the head of the Catholic Church. In this respect the United States occupies an entirely different position . . . Our direct relations with the Papal States can only*

be of a commercial character."²

An established principle of international law gives to a minister resident in a foreign country "the privilege of religious worship in his own private chapel, according to the peculiar forms of his national faith, although it may not be generally tolerated by the laws of the State where he resides."³ The American minister in Rome arranged for Protestant services to be held in his residence. In 1859 our minister, Mr. Stockton, approved of the organization of the Grace Church, which used the liturgy of the Protestant Episcopal Church and which was placed under the jurisdiction of the presiding bishop of this

²Department of State, Instruction, April 3, 1848.

³Wheaton's *Elements of International Law*, p. 304.



—Aome

The resigning Presidential Envoy to the Vatican in private audience with Pope Pius XII.

February, 1950

church in the United States. The owner of the Salviati Palace refused to renew the lease of our American minister unless Protestant services were discontinued. The American church was thus compelled to move to new quarters, outside the walls of Rome. This incident, however, does not account fully for the drastic action taken by the Congress on February 27, 1867.

There had been strong opposition to the American Legation at Rome in both Houses of the Congress. In 1860 the House refused to make an appropriation, but the Senate dissented. In 1865 Horace Greeley wrote a strong editorial against its continuance. The climax came on January 29, 1867, when a bill, H.R. 904, appropriating funds for the diplomatic and consular services, came up for consideration.

Thaddeus Stevens introduced the following amendment: "Whereas it is beneath the dignity and contrary to justice that this nation should be represented at any Court or Government which prohibits free worship by American citizens within its jurisdiction of the Christian religion; and whereas the Roman Government has lately ordered the American churches to be removed outside of the city and prohibited the free exercise by them of the Christian religion therein: *Therefore, no money hereby appropriated shall be paid for the support of the United States legation at Rome or for the future expenses of such legation.*"

Heated debate followed. Representatives with large Roman Catholic supporters vigorously attacked the preamble of the amendment. One of

them said: "If the amendment of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) means anything it is a direct expression of Protestant resentment against the Papal Government of Rome . . . It is an established principle of the Roman hierarchy that the ritual of its establishment must be exclusive, and though myself a Protestant, I cannot, as a member of this Government, representing a Catholic constituency, under the tolerant principle of our Constitution, consent to this bold attack upon an established religion, equally Christian with our own."⁵

The following day Representative William E. Dodge requested the reading of a letter he had just received from Rev. Dr. Prime, a nationally-known Presbyterian minister, who was visiting in Rome. The clerk read:

"Rome, January 4, 1867.

"For six years and more the Scotch Presbyterians have had a station here. Indeed they have two: one the Free Church, the other the Church of Scotland. The chaplains have held service every Sabbath in their own apartments with a few of their countrymen, rarely more than thirty or forty being present; no sign or notice is allowed to be put on the house to designate it as a place of worship. The stranger finds it advertised at his hotel, and coming to the number, prowls up the dark, stone stairways to some very upper chamber; and there, as secretly as the early Christians in the catacombs of Rome or in the dens and caves of the earth, he finds a few like-minded who pray and hear the Word. These services disturb no one and the authorities do not notice them. They affect to ignore their existence

⁴*Congressional Globe*, vol. 77 p. 850.

⁵*Ibid.*

altogether. On Saturday, December 29th, 1866, the chaplains of these two missions were served with the following warning:

'British Consulate at Rome

December 29, 1866

'Sir:

'It is my official duty to inform you that Monsignore Randi, Governor of Rome, has just communicated to me that you are holding illegal religious meetings in your house, which you must know are prohibited by the Roman law, and that you have thus placed yourself in the power of the Inquisition, both for arrest and imprisonment. But as the Monsignore permits me to give you this notice, I would seriously advise that you at once put an end to these innovations, and that you visit Monsignore Randi at Monte Citorio and assure him that you will never again repeat these illegal acts. I hope in this way you may possibly suspend your exile which is now hanging over you.

'I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

'Joseph Sever, British Consul.'

'To Rev. James Lewis.'"

It was this letter from Dr. Prime that swayed the members of the House of Representatives. No official information was then available from the State Department to explain the status of the congregation which for years had worshiped in the private chapel of the American Minister. Therefore, the preamble to Mr. Stevens' amendment was voted down, and the following clause was inserted in the bill: "No money hereby or otherwise appropriated shall be paid for the support of the American legation at Rome from and after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen hundred sixty seven." The vote was 82 for, 18 against. This denial of government funds was approved by the Senate without debate, and on February

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► A STRONG request to end diplomatic relations with the Vatican was made to President Truman last Jan. 3 by Dr. Glenn L. Archer, executive director of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State. At that time Mr. Myron C. Taylor was on his way back from Rome and there were rumors that he was resigning his post at the Vatican. In a telegram to Mr. Truman, Dr. Archer said:

"Myron Taylor's expected resignation will give you an opportunity to end Vatican mission which is an offense to non-Catholic Americans. Now is the time to keep your promise that the mission would be 'temporary.' Taylor's office must be closed for good when he leaves."

28, 1867, less than two months after the governor of Rome had commissioned the British Consul to notify the Scotch Presbyterian missionary that he was "in the power of the Inquisition both for arrest and imprisonment," a law had been enacted by the Congress of the United States that closed the American Legation at Rome.

This Act of Congress put an end to any kind of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the United States Government. It was in violation of this that Myron C. Taylor was appointed by President Roosevelt as ambassador to Pope Pius XII in 1940. And it is this Act of Congress that makes the continued presence there of any official representative illegal.

Better Omit That!

TO COUNTERACT Paul Blanshard's book, *American Freedom and Catholic Power*, and his articles in *The Nation*, the Jesuit magazine *America* published a series of seven articles by Father George H. Dunne, and these articles have since been published in pamphlet form under the title, *Religion and Democracy*.

Father Dunne, who is rated as a "liberal" Catholic priest, was obliged in his original articles to admit the justice of some of Mr. Blanshard's criticisms of Roman Catholic beliefs and practices. It has been discovered, however, that some of the paragraphs containing these admissions in the original articles are not found in the pamphlet. Among them, for instance, is the following on the exploitation of relics, medals, etc.:

"Nothing, of course, can be said in defense of the exploitation of relics, medals, and novenas for fund-raising purposes. Those who are guilty of these abuses easily rationalize them. The primary object is the encouragement of prayer and pious practices. The fund-raising is incidental and is, after all, for pious purposes.

"The rationalization is inadmissible. It is a reflection of an age and a society in which money is king. However worthy the cause for which money is sought, its influence is bad. It can cause men to compromise ideals, water down the teachings of Christ, cultivate the rich, ignore the poor.

"The trouble is that it is impossible to serve both God and Mammon, much less to enlist Mammon in the service of God. Those who attempt to do so, however much they may rationalize their

position, inevitably wind up in the service of Mammon.

"Personally I would be happier with a probably non-authentic relic of St. Anne, who however little I know about her, was, whether that was her name or not, the Mother of the Mother of Christ. Although I do not go in much for relics, I should find the non-authentic relic of St. Anne a more comforting symbol than any of the substitutes mentioned above."

This pamphlet, bearing the imprimatur of Cardinal Spellman of New York, also makes the following significant omission:

"When Charlemagne, upon the theory that error has no rights against truth, invoked penal laws and the secular power of the state to suppress the erroneous beliefs of the Saxons and to impose upon them Christian truths, he was rebuked by Pope Adrian and by the famous monk Alcuin. Alcuin's words are worth recalling: 'Men can be attracted, but not forced, to the faith. You may drive people to baptism, you won't move them one step closer to religion . . . If the sweet yoke and burden of Christ had been announced to these inflexible Saxons with as much perseverance as has been brought to the collection of imposts and the rigorous execution of laws punishing the least faults, perhaps they would not have a horror of baptism.'

"When criticism is stilled, there is cause for alarm. Silence is a sign that smug complacency has entrenched itself, and complacency is the prelude to decay and death, whether in literature or in life, in society or the state, in politics or economics, in the school or the church."

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AS UNHEWN STONE

And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou hast polluted it. Exodus 20:25

GOD'S PLAN for the universe has been immutable down through the ages. Each heavenly body revolves in its own orbit; each living organism reproduces after its own kind; and man, created in God's image, has dominion over every other living creature.

Nor has there been any deviation in the type of sacrifice acceptable to God in either the dispensations of law or grace. It has always been a blood sacrifice offered upon a crude altar. Abel offered the more acceptable sacrifice; the wandering Israelites were to build altars of rough stone untouched by any tool; and *"whosoever believeth not on the Son [Jesus] is condemned already."*

Today, thousands of years after creation as the world yearns for Christ's return, God still demands a blood sacrifice and an altar of unhewn stone. He has provided that altar—that plan of salvation—in the death of His own son on Calvary. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."*

As the Israelites camped about Mount Sinai, God warned them that any tool lifted upon the altar of rough stone would pollute it. They knew that a polluted altar could not produce an acceptable sacrifice. Nor can God's perfect altar of salvation be amended to appear more attractive or more difficult to reach. His plan of salvation cannot be complicated by human juggling and still remain acceptable to Him. His altar must be of rough stone untouched by any tool. It is the substitutionary death of His son.

The Roman Catholic Church does not accept Christ's death as the way of salvation, although it does accept it as a means of salvation. It does not teach that the substitutionary death of Christ is sufficient for salvation, but it teaches it is a part of the plan of salvation. The Roman Catholic Church uses the tools of good works, priestly sacrifices and penances to chisel away at God's perfect plan.

A sharp edge of the crude altar has been smoothed down by the Roman Catholic teaching that the daily Mass, like Calvary, is a sacrifice where Christ repeatedly suffers the pains of the crucifixion. It is even asserted in a booklet entitled *My Mind Wanders* by John P. Delany that *"By offering the Mass, you add something to Calvary, you almost improve on Calvary."* Yet Jesus, as he bowed His head on Calvary and gave up the ghost, whispered *"IT IS FINISHED."* Man's salvation had been completed.

Another variation is made to the altar of rough stone in the Roman Catholic doctrine that penances, self-inflicted torture and good works are aids to salvation. Roman Catholics are taught they are able to hasten their way to heaven by repeating numerous prayers as penances, and voluntarily doing tasks for others. But God warned *"Our righteousnesses are as filthy rags,"* and *"There is none righteous, no not one."* Likewise Paul writes that we are saved in Christ, *"Not according to any works, but according to His own purpose and grace,"* and again, *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."* (2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5.)

No matter how much more reasonable masses, good works, self-inflicted torture and penances make salvation, they do not enhance God's immutable unhewn altar.

**There was no other good enough to pay the price of sin,
He only could unlock the gate of Heaven and let us in.**

Holy Bible,
Book divine,
Blessed treasure,
Thou art mine.

The Bible

PROTESTANTISM has always been identified with the Bible, and the Bible has thus been generally regarded more as a 'Protestant' than a 'Catholic' book. The Protestant Reformation came about because the Bible was given to the people and made the sole rule of faith. It established the right of each one to read and interpret the Bible as directed by the Holy Spirit, and placed the Word of God above all the teachings and traditions of man.

Most disconcerting therefore is the bold claim in advertisements and pamphlets of the Knights of Columbus that the Bible is exclusively a "Catholic Book." In one of their pamphlets entitled, *The Bible is a Catholic Book*, they claim for instance, that "all of the books of the New Testament were written by Catholics," that the Bible was first "published" by the Catholic Church in the year 397, was "preserved" by Catholics, and can be cor-

rectly interpreted only by the Catholic Church. "*God is its Author*," it claims, "*and the Catholic Church is its publisher*."

This pamphlet of the Knights of Columbus also asserts that "*the Bible was not completed for hundreds of years after Christ left the earth*," and that "*you can accept the Bible only upon the word of the Catholic Church*."

These claims are made in an effort to convince Protestants: 1) that the Bible is not the sole rule of faith; 2) that the Roman Catholic Church is the final authority on everything that concerns Christian teaching; and 3) that, when necessary, the Bible can be dis-

Is God's Book

BY L. H. LEHMANN



pened with and the traditions and dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church accepted instead.

If these things were true, it would have to be admitted that the Protestant Reformation was a tragic mistake, that the Bible is not a sufficient and safe guide for Christian teaching and practice, that Protestantism would have to be completely abandoned and the entire Christian world submit again to the absolute authority of the Church of Rome.

WHOSE BIBLE?

In meeting these daring claims it is necessary, first of all, to note the misleading use of the words "Catholic Church," by which is meant "Roman

Catholic Church." For it is thus implied that the Roman Catholic Church as we know it today existed at the time of Christ, and that the apostles and evangelists, and all the first followers of Christ, were Roman Catholics. This is the false claim upon which all the claims of the Roman Catholic Church are based. By identifying the Roman Catholic Church with the first followers of Christ (and with Christ Himself), it is made to appear that the Roman Catholic Church is the one and only true Church of Christ and has a monopoly of everything Christian.

Now, it is obvious that the Roman Catholic Church did not exist at the time of Christ, and that the apostles and evangelists could not have been called either 'Catholics' or 'Roman Catholics.' The early Christians were followers or disciples of Christ, and were first called 'Christians' at Antioch: *"And the disciples were called*

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Christians first at Antioch" (Acts 11: 26). Furthermore, if, as is claimed all of the writers of the New Testament were Roman Catholics you would expect that they would have written down all the dogmas, teachings and practices which are essential today in order to be a Roman Catholic. It is well known, and admitted in this pamphlet of the Knights of Columbus that they did not do so.

In fact, the whole object of this specious claim that the Bible belongs exclusively to the Roman Catholic Church is to prove that the Bible is not complete, that it does not contain sufficient to be believed in order to be saved. This can only be accomplished by making it appear that the Roman

Catholic Church existed before the New Testament was written, that it was written by Roman Catholics, and that these Roman Catholic writers penned a mere summary of what Christ taught, leaving most of the essential teachings and practices of the Christian faith to be passed on by the oral teaching and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church. In an attempt to prove this, the Knights of Columbus in their pamphlet quote John 21:25: "There are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written each one, the world itself, I think, would not be able to contain the books that should be written." But they do not quote John 20:31: "But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

Protestants, on the other hand, accept the Bible in its entirety as the Word of God and containing, as the above text from the Apostle John definitely asserts, sufficient to believe that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." They follow the Protestant Reformers in rejecting the load of man-made doctrines and traditions dogmatized into Christian teaching by the Roman Catholic Church, and which are not found in the Bible. By thus accepting the Bible as the sole rule of their faith, Protestants would be justified in calling the Bible — a 'Protestant' rather than a 'Catholic' book.

WHO 'PUBLISHED' THE BIBLE?

The strange claim is also made in this pamphlet of the Knights of Columbus that the Catholic Church was



"LIGHT UNDER A BUSHEL"

the first to "publish" the Bible. This is a reference to the official listing of the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments by the Council at Carthage at the end of the fourth century. But this was a Council of the African Church, not of the Roman Catholic Church. The first Council of the Roman Catholic Church to issue an authoritative pronouncement on the Canon of the Bible was the Council of Trent in the year 1546, many years after the whole question of the Church versus the Bible was forced into the open by the Protestant Reformation.

This pamphlet of the Knights of Columbus makes no secret of the fact that the Catholic Church is not founded on the Bible. "*The complete Bible*," it says, "*came from the Church, but the Church did not come from the Bible.*" And again it declares: "*The books of the New Testament were written to meet special needs and were not then, and are not now, absolutely necessary for the teaching Christ intended men to believe.*" To prove this it asserts that the complete Bible was not available for hundreds of years after Christ—till it was first "published" by the Roman Catholic Church in the year 397. From this it would follow that the early Christians up till the end of the fourth century were without a complete Bible, and had to depend upon the teaching of the Catholic Church in order to learn about the Christian way of salvation.

Here again, this whole argument is built on the false assumption that the only Church that existed from the earliest Christian times was the Roman Catholic Church. It is made to appear that the early Christians believed and worshipped as Roman Catholics do to-

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Put it down. The thoughts that God gives you put down in the margin of your Bible or in your notebook.

Work it out. Live the truth you get in the morning through each hour of the day.

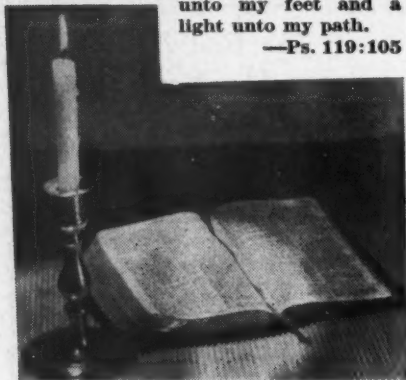
Pass it on. Seek to tell somebody else what you have learned.

—J. Wilbur Chapman

day. Nothing could be farther from the truth. These early Christians could not have known about the many doctrines and practices that are essential for salvation today in the Roman Catholic Church—such as the Sacrifice of the Mass, Purgatory, Auricular Confession, Indulgences, the Immaculate Conception of Mary, Papal Infallibility—most of which were decreed as articles of faith more than a thousand years after Christ, and which are not found in the Bible. These were substituted for the one essential and central teaching of the Christian faith, which the early Christians believed and which the Roman Catholic Church has rejected, namely, *complete salvation by grace through faith accom-*

Thy word is a lamp
unto my feet and a
light unto my path.

—Ps. 119:105



plished by the one, finished sacrifice of Christ on Calvary.

It is true that actual copies of the Bible were not available to the early Christians as they are today. But, after all, it is the teaching contained in the Bible that really matters. "The Catholic attitude is different," says this K. of C. pamphlet. "Our first question is: Did Christ teach it? *It is secondary whether or not an inspired author of the Gospels or the Epistles wrote it down.*" From the Old Testament, which was completed about 250 years before Christ, the early Christians learned about God and His law. From the writings of the New Testament, which were completed with the Book of Revelation about the year 96 A.D., they were taught about Christ and His salvation by grace through faith. They had the assurance of *John 20:31: "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through his name."* What Christ taught was later written down, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, by those who personally witnessed

what Christ taught and did. "The which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us . . . And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (1 John 1:3, 4). The early Christians, as Protestants do today, accepted what was written as sufficient to be believed for salvation. According to the Catholic view, on the other hand, it does not matter whether or not the teaching is written in the Bible. What matters is the teaching it has decreed to sustain the power of its organization, even if it contradicts what is written in the Bible.

THE BIBLE 'PRESERVED'

The claim is also made that the Roman Catholic Church "preserved" the Bible for more than a thousand years after it was first "published." This may be true in the sense that it was "kept" hidden away, wrapped up, as it were, on a shelf from the people. This was a Latin version, called the Vulgate, the work of St. Jerome in the fifth century, and could be read and used only by those who could understand Latin. A more accurate Greek text, called the Vatican Codex, has been in possession of the Roman Catholic Church for the past 500 years, but the Latin Vulgate of St. Jerome remains to this day the official version of the Bible in the Roman Catholic Church, as decreed by the Council of Trent.

Whatever may be said about the "preservation" of the Bible by the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages, it cannot be denied that the Bible has become the best of all best sellers in modern times because of the work of Protestant Bible societies. It is estimated that a total of 26,000,000

1. "The Bibles and parts of the Bible are now sold and distributed each year. This vast distribution of the Bible in our time has been made possible only by its translation into the language of the people in all parts of the world. Up to December, 1948, the Bible had been translated into 1,108 different languages and dialects.

When Protestant Bible societies began their work of translating and distributing the Bible, they were severely condemned by the Roman Catholic Church. The reason for this condemnation was the fear of the effects of thus making the Bible available to the Roman Catholic people in their own languages. Latin Bibles were not a source of worry to the Church of Rome through the centuries, since they were comparatively scarce and could be read only by those well versed in Latin. Besides, the Council of Trent had decreed that the Latin Vulgate version of the Bible should always be held as authentic, and that "no one dare or presume under any pretext whatever to reject it."

Pope Gregory XVI, in his encyclical *Inter Praecipues*, in the year 1844, was especially severe in condemning the Protestant Bible societies. The following excerpts are from the opening paragraphs of this encyclical:

"Among the chief machinations by which in our times non-Catholics of various denominations try to ensnare Catholic believers and turn their minds away from the holiness of their Faith, a prominent place is held by the Bible Societies. These societies, first instituted in England and since extended far and wide, we now behold in battle array, conspiring to translate the books of divine Scripture into all the popular languages, to

issue immense numbers of copies, to spread them indiscriminately among Christians and heathen, and to entice every individual to read them without any guidance.

"To those societies, however, it matters little or nothing into what errors the persons who read the vernacular Bible may fall, provided they are gradually accustomed to claim for themselves free judgment of the sense of Scripture . . .

"From information and documents received, we learned that several persons of different denominations met last year in New York City in America and on the 12th of June formed a new society called *The Christian Alliance* . . . whose common purpose shall be to bring religious liberty—that mad pursuit of religious indifference—to the Romans and other Italians, not realizing that for several centuries . . . there has been no great achievement in the world that did not begin in the Holy City.



"Having, therefore, taken into consultation several cardinals of the Holy Roman Church . . . we again condemn with our Apostolic authority all Bible Societies censored by our predecessors, and by the same authority of our Supreme Apostolate we reprobate by name and condemn the above-named *Christian Alliance*, founded last year in New York, and other societies of the same sort.

"Be it known that all that lend their names or their help to such societies will be guilty of a grave crime before God and Church. Moreover we confirm and by our Apostolic authority renew the commands already given against the publication, distribution, reading and keeping of Scripture translated into the vernacular . . . At the same time it will be your duty to snatch out of the hands of the faithful, not only Bibles translated into the people's language, but also forbidden or injurious books of every sort, and thus provide that the faithful may learn from your warnings and authority what sort of pasture they should consider good for themselves and what sort is harmful and deadly."

Pope Pius VIII, in 1829, denounced the circulation of the Bible by Protestants as a "crafty device," and "a nefarious scheme threatening everlasting ruin." Pope Leo XII (*Ubi Primas*, 1824) described Protestant Bible Societies as "strutting with effrontery through the world," and Pope Pius IX (*Qui Pluribus*, 1864) spoke of giving the Bible to the people in their own languages as "an old device of heretics."

TRADITION

Besides claiming that the Bible is exclusively a Roman Catholic book, and that it must be interpreted only by the Roman Catholic Church, this pamphlet of the Knights of Columbus also boldly asserts that the Bible is not suf-

ficient, that the New Testament is only "a synopsis of the teachings of Christ." In a paragraph headed, "*Bible Not Full Truth*," it declares: "*The New Testament writings were never meant to be the sole and final authority for Christ's revealed truth. They were never intended as the complete and only source of certain knowledge of Christian faith and duty.*" And since this cannot be proved from the Bible itself, it goes on gratuitously to assert: "*The Catholic Church proves it from what Christ and His Apostles taught. The Catholic Church was there to hear them and has held fast to their teaching.*" Here again is repeated the false and unsubstantiated claim that the Roman Catholic Church must be identified with the disciples and first followers of Christ.

It can easily be seen why the Roman Catholic Church is forced to insist that the Bible is incomplete, that it does not contain sufficient to be believed in order to be saved, and that the New Testament was "never intended as the complete and only source of Christian faith and duty." It is forced to make these assertions because most of its essential dogmas are not found in the Bible. If there is nothing to sustain these, then the whole structure of the Church falls to the ground. It thus falls back on *tradition*—the unwritten word of the customs and practices that grew up with its own historical development through the centuries. In order to make this unwritten word of tradition authentic, the Council of Trent decreed that it must be accepted as being of equal authority with the Word of God in the Bible. Thus the door is left wide open for the Roman Catholic Church at any time to



establish any new doctrine that expediency may require to substantiate new claims or to defend the structure of doctrine already built up through the centuries. Tradition alone can sustain the doctrine of Papal Infallibility which was decreed at the Vatican Council in 1870, the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in 1854, or the proposed new dogma of the bodily assumption of Mary into heaven. They cannot be proved from the Bible, and it is only by falling back on tradition that the Catholic Church can assert that Christ or His Apostles taught that the Popes of Rome should be infallible, that His Mother was conceived immaculate, and that her body would be taken up into heaven after her death.

Tradition is most untrustworthy, since it depends upon the word of men and is thus no safe guide to Christian truth. Its teachings as dogmatized into articles of faith in the Roman Catholic Church are not only unscriptural, but tend to obscure, and eventually deny, the central doctrine of the Christian Gospel message, which is salvation full and free by grace through faith in the all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ offered "once for all" (Heb. 10:10).

It was for this reason that the Protestant Reformers in the sixteenth century swept away all the false teachings and practices that had been based upon tradition, and restored the Bible

as the sole rule of faith and the final authority in all matters concerning eternal salvation. They found that the Bible itself condemned traditions: "*Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*" And again: "*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*" (Matt. 15:6, 9). This was a life or death challenge to the Church of Rome, which could only be answered with the decree of the Council of Trent that tradition must be retained with the Scriptures as the rule of faith.

BIBLE STILL NULLIFIED

The work of the Protestant Reformers therefore consisted chiefly in rescuing the Bible from the clutches of the Church of Rome and proclaiming it as the final authority on all that concerns Christian faith and practice. Their task was to make the Bible and its teachings available to the people and to convince them that it contains everything that is necessary to be believed in order to be saved. The effect of their work may be seen in the vast distribution and acceptance of the Bible today in almost every known language. Even the Roman Catholic Church has been forced to supply its people, in Protestant countries, with more accurate Catholic translations of the New Testament.

But this vast, uncontrolled distribution of the Bible by Protestants is a danger to the Roman Catholic Church, whose concern it always must be to uphold the authority of its teachings and traditions above that of the Bible. It is to counteract this free access to

the open Bible by all classes of people that the Knights of Columbus have devised their great propaganda campaign through newspaper advertising and pamphlets. Their aim is to discredit the value set upon the Bible by Protestants, and thus endeavor to convince the American public of two things: 1) that the Bible is a "Catholic Book" and Protestants had nothing to do with its origin, its preservation and interpretation; 2) that the Bible has little or no value apart from the Roman Catholic Church.

Thus the Bible still remains the crucial point of difference between Protestantism and Roman Catholicism. The Catholic Church knows that most of its teachings and practices cannot be sustained by the Bible; it therefore seeks to regain monopoly of it so as to control its use. Protestantism, on the other hand is fully committed to the Bible as the sole rule of faith and sufficient guide to salvation. This was the issue fought out by the Protestant Reformation, and which is responsible for the heritage of faith and freedom which Protestants profess today.

Protestants therefore must continue to fight out this issue in defense of that heritage of faith and freedom which has been passed down to them. They must deny and prove that the Bible does not belong to the Roman Catholic Church—that it is God's book, free to all, containing the full message of Gospel truth, that it is "*the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth . . .*" (Rom. 1:16).



*Word of the everlasting God,
Will of His glorious Son,
Without Thee how could earth be trod,
Or heaven itself be won?*

► **"THERE IS** a veritable famine of the Scriptures," reports the representative of the British and Foreign Bible Society in East Africa, of the condition in Africa. There are "political movements, some of them sinister in the extreme, which threaten the very life of the church," he says, but "the answer is everywhere the Word of God. If we can place Testaments in the hands of Christians, and see to it that they are adequately instructed, then the church need not fear."

► **PRESIDENT TRUMAN** was presented with the first copy of the Bruce Rogers Bible last Oct. 28. This elaborate Bible, a folio volume of 968 pages, is hand set in Goudy Newstyle type and made to sell at \$150 a copy. Only 975 copies were printed, after which the 22 tons of type were destroyed. The Bible is the King James version.

► **EACH MEMBER** of the Fourth Class of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point received a specially bound copy of the Bible at the close of Sunday morning worship last Sept. 18. The Bibles were the gift of the American Tract Society, which has made the presentation annually for the past eighty years. The Bibles were placed in the hands of the 454 cadets as they filed out of the chapel.

► **THERE** are about 4,000 Bibles in the New York Public Library and its branches. According to the N. Y. Times of last November 1, the Bible "is the most popular book in the library, and more than 40 copies are available for the public in the Central Circulation Department." In the main reading room there are also 40 editions in English and foreign languages, which are replaced every six months as they are worn out.

"The Roman Catholic power is felt in every human activity. This church has an institutional loyalty which Protestants with their individual freedoms may never attain. We have a free mind and a free soul. Herein lies our power. We must tell the world that freedoms such as we have are greatly to be preferred to a blind loyalty to an institution whose historical record in Catholic states offers little in the way of religious liberty to those who adhere to a different faith."

—Glenn L. Archer, Exec. Dir. POAU



► **POPE PIUS XII** publicly declared himself, last Nov. 17, in favor of the United States plan to arm the countries of Western Europe against Russia. His statement assumed special significance, according to the report in the N. Y. *Times*, because he was addressing a group of seven members of the United States Senate Military Appropriations Subcommittee, who had been investigating political, military and economic conditions in Western Europe. The Pope, according to the report, styled the United States arms program "*the most effective weapon under present circumstances to preserve peace.*"

► **MARSHAL TITO** of Yugoslavia was reported in the N. Y. *'Times'* of last Nov. 27, as conferring with a delegation of Roman Catholic clergy from Slovenia with a view to finding a solution of the differences between the Catholic Church and the Yugoslav State.

► **MOVIE CRITIC** George Preattey, in a review of *Come to the Stable* over the C.B. C. radio, described it as "*another of the growing flood of propaganda films on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church. While this film is not nearly as bad as 'The Miracle of the Bells,' it is still sentimentally sticky enough to cause some movie goers embarrassment.*"

► **THE RELIC** of the hand and arm of St. Francis Xavier, encased in a casket of gold and crystal, was viewed by 3,000 people at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City last November 27. It has been on tour of fifteen archdioceses of the United States.

► **'OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC'** published yearly since 1793 and claimed to be one of the 100 books most greatly influencing American life, notes every Catholic feast day on its current calendar. This is positive evidence, conjectures the [Catholic] *'Register'* of last November 27, "of the Catholicization of New England."

► **OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S** population of 12 million, 2,030,000 are Protestants. More than a million of these belong to the Czechoslovak Church, which results from a breakaway of priests and people from the Roman Catholic Church after the first World War. The Union of Czech Brethren has a membership of 330,000; the Slovak Lutheran Church has 400,000; the Slovak Calvinist Church 150,000; and other minor Protestant sects 50,000.

► **LUTHERAN CHURCH** membership in the United States and Canada totals 5,950,735 in 1948, the National Lutheran Council reported last October 31. This was an increase of 114,588 over the previous year. The report also showed an increase of 976 Lutheran Church schools, bringing the total to 25,691.

► **IN A TWO DAY** mass evangelism drive, the Methodist churches in the Philadelphia, New Jersey and Delaware Conferences gained nearly 3,000 new members, reports Bishop Fred D. Corson. According to an AP dispatch of last December 3, 350 local churches and 1,000 visiting clergymen from all over the country participated in the drive. In addition to the visitation work, nightly evangelistic services were held in all Methodist churches.

► **THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS** of the Protestant Episcopal Church went on record at their convention last October as opposing Federal or State funds for parochial schools.

► **THE Y.M.C.A.** in Rumania was dissolved by the Government last Oct. 21, and all its holdings taken over by the State.

► **DR. KONRAD ADENAUER**, Chancellor of the new West German republic, is a very devout Roman Catholic. Seven of the thirteen members of his cabinet are also Roman Catholics.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN recently received a medal and a rosary from Pope Pius XII. They were brought to him from Rome by U. S. Representative Lineham (Ill.).

VINCENT SHEEAN, author and foreign correspondent, who recently embraced the Hindu religion, was a devout Roman Catholic in his boyhood. He explains the reasons for his conversion to Hinduism in his latest book, 'Lead Kind Light,' written after his visit to Mahatma Gandhi.

FOR THE FIRST TIME since her conversion to the Roman Catholic Church, Mrs. Boothe Luce had an audience with Pope Pius XII last October 21.

A TEETOTALER was recently appointed a director of Guinness Brewing Company, one of the world's largest brewers. She is the Marchioness of Dufferin and Avam, niece of the Earl of Iveagh, the company's chairman.

CONTRARY TO CATHOLIC Church teaching, Circuit Judge Arthur W. Kopp of Lancaster, Wisconsin, ruled "that the right of parenthood is 'God given' and cannot be abridged by religious differences," reports *The Milwaukee Journal* of last November 7. In awarding custody of a 19-month-old child to her Protestant father, Delbert Meyer of Elizabeth, Ill., instead of to her Catholic grandparents, Judge Kopp said "*the court does not consider religious differences are an evidence of unsuitableness, no matter which church affiliation it may relate to.*" This is a refreshing contrast to the decision of Judge Laphman in 1947. [See CCM., Mar. 1948.]

ONLY FOUR persons in Italy know where Mussolini is buried, according to a dispatch from Milan in the N. Y. 'Times' of last Nov. 2. Not even the members of Mussolini's family know the exact location of the grave.

► **AS THE RESULT** of a fervent evangelistic campaign conducted by youthful Billy Graham last fall, prominent Roman Catholic track star, Louis Zamperini denounced Roman Catholicism and accepted Christ as his complete Saviour. The holder of two collegiate records for the mile run, and famous for seizing a Nazi flag at the Berlin Olympics in 1936, Zamperini was shot down during World War II, spent 47 days on a life raft and two years in a Japanese prison. "It's difficult for anyone who came through the things I did to forget God," he says, "but I did."

► **ADDRESSING THE ANNUAL** convention of the Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies, Archbishop Richard J. Cushing denounced 'Protestants and Others United for Separation of Church and State' as "a refined form of the Ku Klux Klan," and further declared: "Our people are in a very precarious position, thanks to the extremely hard, though evil, work which contemporary anti-Catholics have done."

► **NEARLY** one in every five movies put out by Hollywood in 1949 was found to be "morally objectionable" by the Roman Catholic Bishops' Committee on Motion Pictures, as reported in the N. Y. 'Times' of last Nov. 23. A much larger percentage—47%—of foreign films were found to be "morally objectionable in whole or in part." Working through the Legion of Decency, the Bishops' Committee reviewed 467 feature-length films during the year.

► **IN THE FISCAL** year ending in 1949, according to the United Press, alcohol tax receipts dropped to \$2,210,607,168 from the 1948 high of \$2,255,326,754, while the tobacco tax collections rose from \$21,594,617 in 1948 to \$1,321,874,700 in 1949. The motion picture income dropped slightly, along with pari-mutuel net receipts for horse and dog racing.

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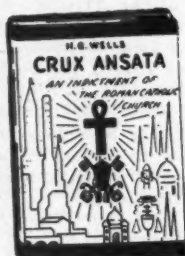
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► ACCORDING TO a Swiss Catholic agency, the Catholic population of the world increased from 304 to 423 million during the period between 1920 and 1940. The report also added that the entire population of the world increased by 100 million during that same period.

► CONSTANT UNREST in Czechoslovakia is evidenced by a declaration of the Catholic bishops there last December which condemns the government's church control law and again demands that the government abandon attempts to enforce it.

► AMERICANS drink almost as much intoxicating liquor as the rest of the world combined, at a yearly cost of more than \$8,800,000,000, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. This averages about \$80 for everyone over 18 years of age, or about four times as much as the national average for the maintenance of elementary and secondary schools.

► THE NEW CONSTITUTION of the United Republic of Indonesia contains special safeguards for Christian missionary work. According to a 'Religious News Service' report, it provides for freedom of religion and, specifically, for the right to change one's religion and to preach.

► AT THE annual meeting of the American Catholic hierarchy in Washington, D. C., last Nov. 16-18, it was reported that 2,304,965 pupils are enrolled in Catholic grade schools, 482,672 in secondary schools, 299,807 in colleges and universities, and 23,965 in seminaries. It was also reported that the NCWC News Service now serves Catholic publications that are read by a total of 45,600,000 persons.

► PLANS are nearing completion for the establishment of a National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Seven interdenominational groups, representing an estimated 28,000,000 Protestants, have already voted to participate in the merger to form this overall body for cooperative Protestant action. The latest group to come into the merger is the United Council of Church Women, which represents 10,000,000 women in Protestant churches.

► **THE GRANDDAUGHTER** of Frank Jay Gould, American multi-millionaire, is reported to be nearing the end of her novitiate in a Swiss convent, and may soon renounce her inheritance and take her final vows to become a cloistered nun of the Cistercian order. She is 24-year-old Baroness Marie de Mortenache, whose mother, the former Helen Gould, is the daughter of Frank Jay Gould who inherited \$10,000,000 from his father, the financier Jay Gould.

► **THE HINDUS** also have their monasteries and convents, and one of these, the Sarada Convent for women, is situated near Montecito, California. The novices, who wear yellow monks cloth dresses, train for five years before taking vows of poverty, chastity and spiritual obedience. There is also a Hindu monastery for men in Trabuco Canyon, near Laguna Beach, Cal.

► **THE NEWEST** Trappist monastery in this country was formally opened at Monks Corner near Charleston, S. C., when twenty-eight monks from Gethsemane, Kentucky, took up residence there last Nov. 15. It is called the Abbey of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and was formerly a plantation owned by Henry R. Luce, publisher of 'Time,' 'Life' and 'Fortune' magazines.

► **ANTON PREISINGER**, chosen to play the part of Christ in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, is a former Nazi. As reported in the N. Y. 'Times' of last Nov. 18, Herr Preisinger admitted that he had joined the Nazi party in 1932, before Hitler came to power. The report added that most of the chief actors in the play are also former Nazi party members.

► **A JESUIT PRIEST**, Father Jerome D'Souza from Madras, is a member of the Indian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly at Lake Success. Father D'Souza is a member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, and obtained special permission of the Pope to become a member of the Indian delegation at the United Nations.

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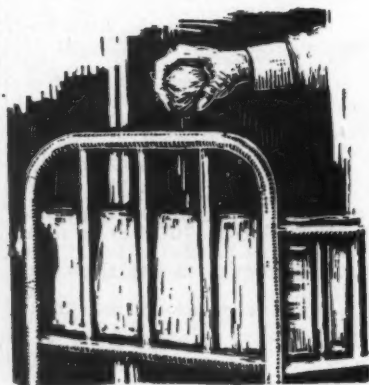
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BY WILLIAM E. BURKE



THROUGH its various agencies and especially its *Catholic Action* program, the Roman Catholic Church is expending every effort to make America Catholic. Whereas in the past it depended exclusively on the activities of its priests and bishops, it has now rallied the laity on a grand scale to serve as missionaries for the propagation of its faith. *Catholic Action* is thus defined as "the participation of the laity in the Apostolate of the hierarchy." It aims to weld the activities of the Catholic lay people with the plans and designs of the hierarchy.

Catholic Action operates by the grouping of the Catholic lay people according to class and occupation. In his book, *Rome Stoops to Conquer*, Dr. E. Boyd Barrett describes these groupings as follows: "Every class, every cross section of sex, occupation, age and local affiliation is appropriately grouped. From 'hello-girls' to dentists, from posts to policemen, Catholics are billeted in their societies and taught to be 'Catholic-conscious.' There are clubs or guilds or confraternities of Catholic lawyers, nurses, writers, army officers, naval officers, customs officers, stenographers, factory girls and so forth. Each group has its own specific instructions on its duties and obligations in relation to the over-all plan of making America Catholic."

Of all these groups, perhaps the most important from a proselyting point of view are the Catholic nurses in both Catholic and non-Catholic hospitals. Since these nurses are in contact with the sick and the dying, they can easily be made into very efficient missionaries in the proselyting program of the Roman Catholic Church.

Most of the patients in the more than thousand Roman Catholic hospitals in the United States are non-Catholics. Catholic nurses are minutely instructed how to act toward these patients and how to baptize non-Catholics, and especially infants, who are in danger of death.

Samples of these instructions may be seen in a booklet entitled, *The Catholic Nurse and the Dying*, by Jesuit Father William S. Bowdern, published by The Queen's Work in St. Louis, Mo. Instructions for the baptizing of infants, even of Protestant parents, are as follows (p. 8):

"If you are certain that an infant is dying, baptize him. Get the parents' consent, if possible. If you cannot, and the infant is certainly dying, baptize him quietly."

How a nurse can baptize a person "quietly," is explained on page 7, as follows:

"A nurse could baptize a person quietly, by squeezing a wet rag over the forehead of the person to be baptized and at the same time saying the words in a very low voice. Do not just rub the rag on the forehead; but squeeze it so that some water, even though a little, actually flows."

If an infant born of Protestant parents is thus baptized by a Catholic nurse and unexpectedly recovers, the nurse is further instructed to "report the fact of the baptism to the pastor of the locality in which the parents live." Such a child would thus be registered and grow up as a Roman Catholic. He or she would be bound by the laws of the Roman Catholic Church.

Nurses are also instructed what to do in accident cases where the person is unconscious and dying: "If anyone is present who knows the man, find out the religion of the dying man. *If he is not a Catholic, and a priest is not at*

hand and the man is dying . . . baptize him conditionally." Likewise, if the man is not a Catholic but is conscious and dying, the nurse is instructed as follows: "*If the priest is not present and the man is apt to die before his arrival, baptize the man yourself.*"

In a case where a Protestant is dying and the nurse does not know whether he wants to be baptized or not, she is instructed to get at least the following admission from the dying man: "I want to do whatever is necessary to save my soul;" or "I want to do whatever God wants me to do." The nurse is told not to question such a man directly about baptism, since "he might in his ignorance not want to receive it." If he admits in a general way, however, that he is willing to do whatever is necessary to save his soul, then the nurse is told to proceed and call a priest, or if one cannot be had, to baptize the man herself.

This use of Catholic nurses to win converts to the Roman Catholic Church before they die is due to the insistence of Roman Catholic teaching that baptism is absolutely necessary for salvation. It proceeds on the false view that Christ by His death provided the means of grace for sinners — such means to be supplied by the sacraments as administered by the Roman Catholic Church. The teaching of Evangelical Christianity, on the other hand, is that sinners are saved completely and directly by the finished sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. There is required on the part of the sinner, acknowledgment of his sins and his need of a Saviour. By his acceptance of Jesus Christ as his Saviour, he is fully assured of salvation.

Bible Reading in New Jersey's Public Schools Attacked

CCOURT ACTION to test the constitutionality of a New Jersey law that requires the reading of verses from the Old Testament in public schools was started in Superior Court in Paterson, N. J., last November 14.

The statute in question says: "At least five verses from that portion of the Holy Bible known as the Old Testament shall be read or caused to be read without comment in each public school class room, in the presence of pupils therein assembled by the teacher in charge at the opening of school upon every school day."

The suit was brought against the Hawthorne, N. J., Board of Education and the State of New Jersey by Donald R. Doremus, a director of the National Society of United Secularists of America, and Mrs. Henry O. Klein, an officer of the Secularists New Jersey chapter, whose daughter is a student at Hawthorne High School. It was charged that the practice of reading excerpts from the Bible in school is contrary to the Constitution of the United States and constitutes religious education. The complainants seek to enjoin the State, the Hawthorne Board of Education and its employees from reading any portion of the Bible, or any other religious book or tracts in the public schools.

Communist 'Seminaries'

THE VATICAN RADIO recently broadcast a story that the Communists have established "seminaries" of their own in strategic locations for the training of priests in a movement to counteract the influence of the hierarchy among the Catholic people. These seminaries are said to be situated in Moscow, in Lithuania for agents in Northern Europe, in Siberia for the Far East, in Constanza, Romania, and at Feodosia in the

Crimea, and about 5,000 students are already enrolled.

As reported in the Catholic Register of last September 18, the movement is directed by the *Desiform*, which is described as a theological section of the Cominform. Its object is said to be "to divide the faithful under the pretext of a purer faith, to undermine the authority of the Bishops and the Holy See, and to organize 'progressive' Christian reform movements, allegedly for a return to a sort of evangelical poverty which is to become Christian Communism."

It is scarcely to be hoped that the Communists would train priests to preach the pure Gospel teaching among the Roman Catholic people in European countries which were deprived of the benefits of the Protestant Reformation. If this story were true, and an Evangelical reform movement were being organized to oppose the Roman Catholic hierarchy, then something in the end might come out of this great struggle between Communism and Catholicism.

'Elections' In Portugal

PORTUGAL went to the polls last November 13, to elect 120 Deputies of the National Assembly. As easily predicted, the candidates selected by the National Union party of Dictator Salazar won all the seats.

This National Assembly was created by Salazar's "New State" Constitution in 1933 to take the place of the old Republican Parliament that had functioned from 1910 till 1926. It is not a representative body, as its members have always been hand-picked supporters of Salazar's regime. It sits for only three months in the year, and has limited powers to legislate only on basic issues and to act as a sounding board in favor of the acts of the government. As reported in the N. Y. Times of November 13, "after seventeen years the National Assembly is still embryonic and both Dr. Sal-

The Converted Catholic Magazine

s are and the public seem uncertain as to its ability and future."

Up till now, none of the elections, in fascist style, has ever been contested. This time, however, eight rival candidates entered the field, but were completely swamped by the Government party candidates. Salazar has the complete backing of the Roman Catholic Church, and Portugal under his dictatorship is regarded as a sample of the ideal Catholic State.

Another Ruling On Vatican's Ban Against Communists

Communist-controlled unions that distribute newspapers to newsstands in Italy had threatened vendors with reprisals if they refused to sell Communist newspapers, and the question asked of the Holy Office was whether a newspaper vendor would be excommunicated if he sold Communist newspapers after being warned by the distributors that if he did not do so, none of the non-Communist newspapers would be delivered to him.

As reported in the N. Y. Times of last November 24, the reply interpreting the decree of the Holy Office stated that if a newspaper vendor can, without serious difficulty, avoid selling Communist newspapers, he is obliged to do so. "But if a news vendor acts as the result of the active threat of the aforesaid unions," the statement declared, "his physical cooperation may be tolerated." It further added:

"However, he must always have the moral obligation to limit as much as possible his cooperation, and this can be attained by using small ruses in which news vendors are experts, and which it is not necessary to list here."

It has not been easy for the Vatican to enforce its decrees of excommunication against those who cooperate with the Communists in Catholic countries, especially in Italy where Communists are so numerous. The above is one of many instances in which it has been obliged to modify the severity of its decree in order to prevent the excommunication of too many Roman Catholic people.

Most West- European Countries Ruled by Catholics

THE BOAST was made in the [Catholic] Register of last November 13, that in a majority of European countries west of the Iron Curtain, Roman Catholics are at the head of the government, either as Premiers or Vice Premiers, and that only the few traditionally Protestant nations of Scandinavia—Denmark, Norway and Sweden—Great Britain, Finland, Greece and Iceland, are without Catholic leaders.

Here is the list given of Catholic government leaders:

Andorra—Bishop Ramon Urgel of Spain, who shares sovereignty with the President of France;

Austria—Dr. Leopold Figl, Chancellor;

Belgium—Gaston Eyskens, Prime Minister;

France—George Bidault, Prime Minister, and Robert Schuman, Foreign Minister;

Germany—Dr. Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor;

Ireland—John A. Costello, Prime Minister;

Italy—Aldo de Gasperi, Prime Minister;

Lichtenstein—Prince Franz Joseph II, and Dr. Alexander Frick, Prime Minister;

Luxembourg—Grand Duchess Charlotte, and Pierre Dupong, Premier;

Monaco—Prince Louis II;

Netherlands—J. R. H. van Schaik, Vice Premier;

Portugal—Marshal Antonio Carmona, President, and Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, Prime Minister;

Spain—Gen. Francisco Franco, Chief of State;

Switzerland—Drs. Enrico Cello and Philipp Etter, Federal Councillors.

The number of Roman Catholics in the above countries is given as 150,000,000, with another 60,000,000 Roman Catholics in the Communist-dominated countries behind the Iron Curtain.

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that they attributed much of the help and consolation they receive in life to their religious faith.

This does not mean that a Christian without trials and troubles, or that it is easy to live a good Christian life. Paul was a good example of this. In 2 Cor. 4:8, 9, 10 he puts it thus: "*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.*"

The secret is that Christian living by faith, though it does not eliminate trouble, perplexity and suffering, supplies a counteraction to them. A Christian is cast down, but knows he cannot be destroyed. For he sees the spiritual side of himself, the inward man, "the things not seen," and so is sustained. "*For the things which are seen are temporal*" Paul concludes (2 Cor. 4:18), "*but the things which are not seen are eternal.*"

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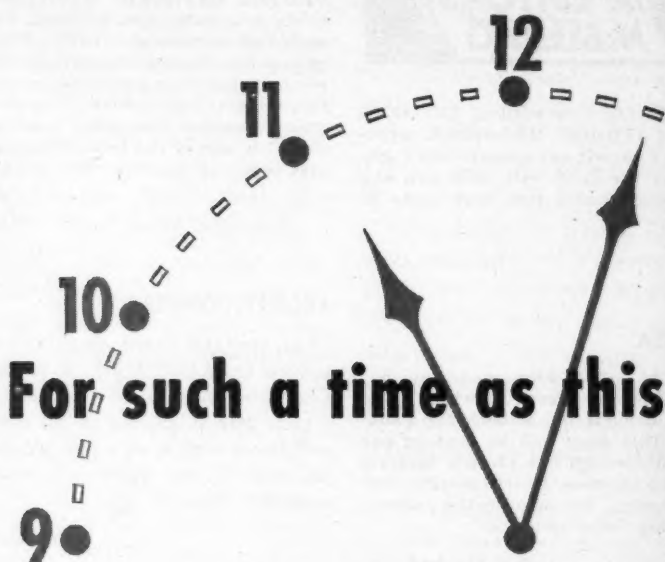
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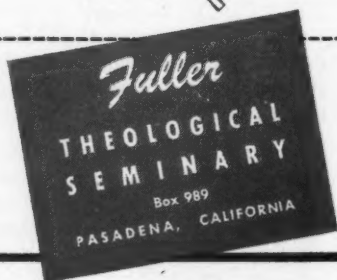
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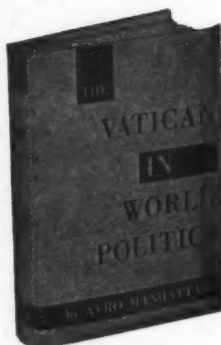
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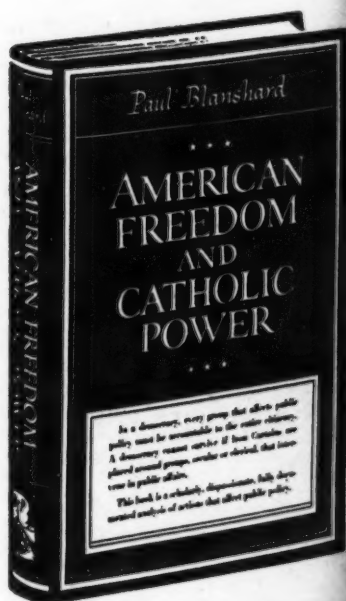
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